

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system container for storage of a biological sample samples for analysis, said system comprising:  
a card for retaining the biological sample, said card having an upper face and a lower face;  
a platform having an upper surface, a lower surface and a recess through said upper and lower surfaces, said recess being configured to allow access to both faces of said card when said card is in said platform; and  
wherein said a container including comprises a compartment adapted to receive said frame for storage of said sample and a closure for sealing said compartment; wherein said sealed closure incorporates a locking mechanism whereby the sealed closure is manually inoperable after locking.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim 1, further comprising a testing apparatus having mechanical extensions for withdrawing said platform from said container wherein the samples are biological samples that may be used in medical diagnostic tests.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim 1, 2 wherein ~~the samples comprise dried blood, saliva or urine retained by a piece of said card is a paper filter card or a swab.~~
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim 1, wherein said platform is adapted to be secured within a medium retaining the sample may be securely locked into the container immediately after said sample has been collected.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim [[4]] 1, further comprising a closure for sealing said compartment and a locking mechanism wherein the closure is manually inoperable after locking wherein the medium includes a filter paper card or a swab.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim 1, further comprising wherein at least a portion of the container is transparent and an identifier located for the sample is secured inside the container for identifying the sample, said identifier being visible when viewed from outside said container whereby the sample identifier is inaccessible and resistant to external tampering.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim 6, wherein the sample identifier includes an identification label carrying a barcode or an electronic memory for storing sample identification data.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim 1, wherein the sample is fixed to a small sliding platform inside the container, whereby the sliding said platform may be completely withdrawn from the container upon release of the locking mechanism to enable access to the sample for processing.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim 1, further comprising a an electronic memory to record the number of times the sample has been accessed.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system container of claim 9, wherein the electronic memory comprises a physical tab that is broken, a mechanical counter that is incremented, or an electronic memory further recording is adapted to record the time and date of each accession.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage container for storage of a biological sample for analysis, wherein said container comprises:

    a body defining a compartment for storage of said sample; and  
    a platform having a recess adapted to receive a medium for retaining the sample, which platform is slidably received within the compartment;  
    a closure for an opening in the body through which the platform may be withdrawn from the compartment; and

~~a locking mechanism for the container whereby manual access to the sample is prevented after locking.~~

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 11, said platform comprising at least one indentation for securing wherein the locking mechanism secures the platform within the compartment.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 11 12, in combination with a testing apparatus having mechanical extensions for withdrawing said platform from said container, said extensions being adapted to engage said at least one indentation of said platform wherein the locking mechanism secures the closure.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 11 13, wherein said testing apparatus includes a scanner for identifying the sample wherein the locking mechanism is unlocked whilst the container is docked with a testing apparatus for processing the sample.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 14 11, wherein the platform is only able to be partially withdrawn from the container in order to allow access to the sample by a sampling device of the testing apparatus.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 14 11, wherein the container may be completely withdrawn from the container to enable access to the sample for processing ~~unlocked with a key that is integral with the testing apparatus.~~

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 11, further comprising a medium, the medium being in the form of a ~~wherein the sample comprises dried blood, saliva or urine retained by a piece of paper card or a swab.~~

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 11, wherein said platform a medium retaining the sample may be secured within securely locked into the container ~~immediately after said sample has been collected~~.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 18 17, wherein the ~~medium includes a filter paper card~~ is a filter paper card or a swab.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 11, further comprising wherein at least a portion of the container is transparent and an identifier located is secured inside the container for identifying the sample, said identifier being visible when viewed from outside said container whereby the sample identifier is inaccessible and resistant to external tampering.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 20, wherein the sample identifier includes ~~an identification label carrying~~ a barcode ~~or an electronic memory for storing sample identification data~~.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 11, further comprising ~~a~~ an electronic memory to record the number of times the sample has been accessed.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage container of claim 22, wherein the electronic memory is adapted to record ~~comprises a physical tab that is broken, a mechanical counter that is incremented, or an electronic memory further recording~~ the time and date of each accession.

24. - 27 (CANCELED)

28. (NEW) A storage container for storage of a biological sample for analysis, said container comprising:

a frame having a recess adapted to receive a medium for retaining the sample, said frame including at least one indentation; and

a body defining a compartment for storage of said frame, said body having an access opening for permitting movement of a portion of said frame into and out of said body, said body including at least one aperture for accessing said at least one indentation of said frame to facilitate movement of said frame relative to said body.

29. (NEW) The container of claim 28, wherein said at least one indentation is a socket configured to receive a mechanical extension from an automated testing apparatus.

30. (NEW) The container of claim 28, wherein the medium is a card having an upper face and a lower face, said recess being configured to allow access to both faces of the card when the card is in said frame.

31. (NEW) A storage system for storage of a biological sample for analysis, said system comprising:

a card having an area for retaining the biological sample, said card having an upper face and a lower face;

a frame having a recess adapted to receive said card, said recess being configured to allow access to both faces of said card when said card is in said frame; and

a cover for protecting the sample area on the card against contaminants, said cover being moveable relative to said frame.